

Press Release: Kim Johnson (MP) meeting Children of the deported Chinese Seafarers

Date: 3rd June 2021

Time: 2.30pm

Place: Pagoda Chinese Community Centre, Henry Street, L1 5BU

Today 25th May, The Guardian newspaper has published “The Secret deportations: how Britain betrayed the Chinese men who served the country in the war” link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/may/25/chinese-merchant-seamen-liverpool-deportations>

During the second World War as many as 20,000 Chinese seaman worked in the shipping industry out of Liverpool. They kept the British merchant navy afloat, and thus kept the people of Britain fueled and fed whilst the Nazis attempted to choke the countries supply line. Yet their contributions have never been recognized.

After the second World War (1946) many of the seamen were rounded up and deported to the quickest and most convenient ports around Asia, the families and children they left behind were unaware of what happened to their dads, not knowing if they had simply ran away, didn't want them or passed away, many of the children and wives lived their lives feeling deceived. In 2002 the truth began to surface, now many of those effected by this dark period of British history have passed away or are in old age. Those remaining just want justice from the British government and an apology to them and the deceased family members who never managed to find out the truth.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the deportations, and new MP of Liverpool Riverside Kim Johnson, is calling on home office to apologize to the families, the forced repatriation scheme was, she said, “one of the most nakedly racist incidents ever, taken by the British government”. It was a shameful stain of our history, yet barely remembered.

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Next Thursday 3rd June 2021, Kim Johnson will come to the Liverpool Pagoda Chinese Community Centre to meet the children of the deported Chinese seafarers. We also welcome media to attend and interview those willing to. The event will be livestreamed on ZOOM for people outside of Liverpool to join. Hopefully some of the half siblings in Singapore can also join.

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